

City of Santa Claus, Georgia
Regular Monthly Council Meeting

September 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held September 16, 2025. Those present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Renee Wright, Brenda Sells, and Matt Lynn, Secretary Sue Grisham, Vince Meadows, and Eddie Wright. Monte Powell was absent. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of August 19, 2025, meeting were read. Renee made a motion second by Matt to accept the minutes. Council agreed unanimously to accept the minutes as read.

Old Business: The financial reports were reviewed by the Council and discussed. The Gardens: Fernando has completed the repairs on the bench damaged in the hurricane and Luis has installed it in the Garden. Park: Monte agreed to take care of ridding the Pavilion of wasps. Donita will put the locks on the gates at the lift station and since the new fence is completed. Community Center: The middle toilet in the ladies' restroom continues to run. Sue will call John Edge to repair it. Roads: No issue with the roads.

Donita stated she has not inquired with Allgreen Services on the possibility of changing garbage pickup from Republic Services. She will inquire about the contract with Republic. She added that the sewage pump at the lift station needs to be vacuumed out.

NEW BUSINESS: The mayor informed the council of a couple of reimbursement checks received from FEMA/GEMA for claims on damages by Hurricane Helene for the SPLOST and General Accounts. Council voted to continue to use the Square credit card service at the Gift Shop as it is. The service is working O.K. for the purchases at the Gift Shop. Donita has contacted Gilbert Jones & Associates and discussed the need for 1099 forms for vendors being paid by the city. She explained this to the Council who agreed this should be looked into.

The city has received checks from FEMA/GEMA for reimbursements for Hurricane Helene damages paid immediately after the storm.

On August 27, Donita had a conference call with FEMA representatives, Orlando Teel and Diane Moss, concerning our Recovery Transition Meeting. She explained this to the Council stating that all documentation is up to date. As of September 15, there are only 2 outstanding projects due funds from FEMA, the Cat Z (management/administrative cost) and the culvert at Salem ST.

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After several phone conversations and recommendations, the mayor contacted Sen. Blake Tillery's attorney office concerning the Cliff Duerfeldt situation. This follows numerous attempts to resolve the issues with Mr. Duerfeldt. The Tillery office stated they would be happy to represent the city adding that their reduced fee for the city would be \$250.00 per hour. After discussion, Brenda made a motion second by Matt to retain The Tillery Group to represent the city in the Duerfeldt issue with Council voting unanimously in favor of this decision.

The problem of the sewage system and billing from Lyons has been an ongoing issue. Donita spoke with Hayes Hofstader of Hofstader and Associated who have pursued several avenues on behalf of the city. He suggested the city pursue getting a grant to rehab the sewer lines. This was discussed at length with Donita agreeing to pursue more information on this. Eddie agreed to assist in the project.

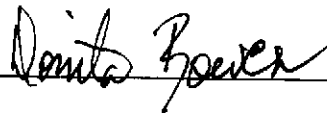
The annual Tree Lighting is approaching. Council discussed the need to clean the Gift Shop. Renee made a motion second by Matt to hire Clarence Pittman to pressure wash, repair the rails and paint the building. Also, Sue will request that Luis Nino submit a quote to pressure wash all of the white fences.

The Toombs County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update was held on August 28 with Mayor Bowen attending, the first of 3 meetings. Federal law dictates that the plan is updated every 5 years. This is to assess the risk, natural or man-made, to our area. This was discussed with Donita requesting that council suggest any item(s) the city may be in need of for disaster preparedness.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donita Bowen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends across the page.